

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:
a polymeric platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending along a lateral side of said vehicle; said platform having an upper solid surface reinforced with transverse webs underneath generally perpendicular to said upper solid surface; and
at least first and second spaced apart polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection with said lateral side of said vehicle and said brackets having a lower end transversely extending and integrally connected with said platform and said brackets being co-molded therewith and wherein said brackets have a channel cross-sectional configuration comprising a plurality of channels being formed from a plurality of sidewalls with said sidewalls being continuous with said transverse webs of said platform, so that said lower end of said J-shaped bracket comprises said transverse webs, said channels being generally U-shaped in cross-section and extending uninterrupted from said lower end of said J-shaped bracket to said upper end of said J-shaped bracket.
2. (Original) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said polymeric material is a plastic.
3. (Original) A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.
4. (Original) A running board as described in claim 2, wherein said plastic is a fiber reinforced plastic.
5. (Original) A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is taken from the group of polyester and fiberglass fibers.
6. (Original) A running board as described in claim 4, wherein said fiber is a long length of fiber.

7. (Previously Presented) A running board as described in claim 6, wherein said fiber is approximately 12 millimeters or greater in length.

8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said platform has longitudinal webs angled with respect to said upper solid surface.

12. (Currently Amended) A running board as described in claim 1, wherein said ~~brackets have a triple~~ channel cross-sectional configuration comprises an inner channel and first and second outer channels.

13. (Currently Amended) A running board as described in claim 12, wherein said an-inner channel juxtaposes said first and second outer channels of said brackets, said first and second outer channels of said bracket being of two larger width than said inner channel of said bracket ~~outer channels of said brackets.~~

14. (Original) A running board as described in claim 13, wherein said outer channels open toward said vehicle.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A running board for an automotive vehicle comprising:
a long fiber reinforced plastic platform for supporting a vehicle occupant's pedal portion for entry or exit of a side door of said vehicle, said platform being an elongated member extending generally along a lateral side of said vehicle, said platform having a generally upper solid surface reinforced by perpendicular transverse webs and angled longitudinal webs;

multiple long fiber-reinforced plastic polymeric support brackets, said brackets being generally J-shaped having an upper end for connection to said lateral side of said vehicle and a lower end transversely extended integrally connected with said platform and being co-molded therewith, said brackets being of a triple channel configuration and wherein said channels have lateral sides continuous with said transverse webs of said platform, so that said lower end of said J-shaped bracket comprises said transverse webs, said channels being generally U-shaped and extending uninterrupted from said lower end of said J-shaped bracket

to said upper end of said J-shaped bracket and a middle channel having a smaller width than adjacent channels opening toward said platform.

17. (Original) A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said plastic is polypropylene.

18. (Previously Presented) A running board as described in claim 16, wherein said fibers are glass fibers approximately 12 millimeters or more in length.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A running board as described in claim 12 wherein said platform has a sidewall with an aperture to allow for drainage of precipitation adjacent said support bracket.

21. (Currently Amended) A running board as described in claim 1 wherein said ~~sidewalls of said bracket which form~~ transverse webs of said platform that are continuous with said sidewalls of said J-shaped bracket have an increased thickness in comparison to said transverse webs that are not continuous with said sidewalls of said J-shaped bracket.